



Big Idea Of The Series: Psalm 139 is well-known devotionally. Psalm 139:14—“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made”—is emblazoned on T-shirts, coffee mugs, and social media memes. The Psalm’s ubiquitous nature and conventional usage can hide its deeply important statements on the nature and goodness of God. This series will explore David’s understanding of his God, our God, with particular attention to four of the classical attributes of God: omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, and omnibenevolence. The goal is to both teach correct theological points regarding these incommunicable attributes of God (attributes which He alone possesses) and to help people understand why these attributes matter for their lives. Ultimately, our goal is to discover our all-knowing, always-present, all-powerful, and all-good God, who is always for us and never against us.

Week 1 - Fully Known & Truly Loved

Text: Psalm 139:1–6

Topic(s): Attributes of God, Omniscience, Knowledge, Discernment

Big Idea of the Message: God’s all-knowing nature assures us that our past, present, and future belong to God. We need not run and hide from Him but instead we can rest in Him.

Setting the stage:

Leaders: Please read aloud to your group Psalm 139:1-6.

As a group: Understand that God’s Omniscience (all knowingness) is not limited to these verses written by David but is instead a foundational attribute of His being evidenced continually throughout time by many of the writers of the Scriptures. As a group, take turns reading aloud the following verses in order to understand the pervasiveness of this revelation:

God is Omniscient - Old Testament Evidence

“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please” (Isaiah 46:9-10).

“Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor? Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?" (Isaiah 40:13-14).

"Can anyone teach knowledge to God, since he judges even the highest?" (Job 21:22).

"He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit" (Psalm 147:4-5).

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever" (1 Chronicles 28:9).

"Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who has perfect knowledge?" (Job 37:16).

"From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do" (Psalm 33:13-15).

God is Omniscient – The New Testament Evidence

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!" (Romans 11:33).

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13).

"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (Luke 12:7).

"Whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything" (1 John 3:20).

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:29-30).

Questions For Group Discussion:

1. (Read for group) *Imagine going to a book store or library and selecting a random book off the shelf. It's an average book—250 pages long, with about 80,000 words, or 400,000 letters, typed on those pages. God knows each page, word, and letter of that book—even the typos. He knows what words were changed in the editing process, and He knows which words the author wanted to use but did not. He knows what every word means, what is true in the book, and what is not true. Now imagine looking up from that one book and realizing that God knows every other book the same way. Every word and every letter on every page in the entire room. But even that is too small; God knows every word that has ever been printed in books, magazines, handwritten letters, signs, and on the Internet. And He knows every word that will be printed.*

Too abstract? How about the grains of sand on every beach on the planet. Researchers have estimated there are 7.5×10^{18} grains of sand, or seven quintillion, five hundred quadrillion grains of sand in the world. God knows what that exact number is, and He knows where each one is right now.

Too impersonal? How about this, God knows every human thought. Scientists estimate that approximately 6,000 thoughts pass through the minds of the earth's 7.8 billion people each day. This means our omniscient God knows all of humankind's 468,000,000,000 thoughts. He is aware of every single thought, every single day, for every person.

How does the extent of God's knowledge make you feel about Him? Are you more awed or more afraid? Are you more comforted or troubled?

2. Our natural proclivity when confronted with the Omniscience of God is to run and to hide. As sophisticated 21st century believers, we know the shrubs and brush will not hide us. **In his talk, John shared some ways that we have all tried to "hide" from God. In what ways have you tried to cover your sin from God? What have you hidden behind?**

3. In his talk, John described what it was like for his college-age kids to return home - it was for them a place where they could relax, drop their "coverings" and just be me - and the reason was because at home they were known and they were loved. **Where is home for you? A better question might be who, what person, "who" is home for you?**

4. “To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear.” Which of these statements resonates more with your life experience?

5. Is it possible “...to be fully known and truly loved” apart from God? Where have you experienced something close? To whom could you be this kind of person for? What would that require of you?

6. If God already knows everything, then what is the point of confession? (*Hint...it has to do with the relationship.*)

7. What impact does God’s omniscience have on your worries for today? (*Hint...Matthew 6:25-32*)

8. In light of God’s omniscience, how do you feel about tomorrow? (*Hint...Matthew 10:29-31*)

9. Share a time where you can look back and see God’s omniscience at work in your life, where now you can see he was clearly involved in bringing about “providential circumstances” to get you to where you are today. In light of this experience what might He be up to in your life right now?